



## San Lorenzo district may cut 109 jobs

By Kristofer Noceda  
Oakland Tribune

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**SAN LORENZO** — School board members tonight will take their turn addressing budget deficits that have plagued districts throughout the state.

Trustees are scheduled to vote on a package of reductions that would trim next year's budget by \$7 million to offset losses in revenue from the state. The cuts would eliminate 109 district personnel, including teachers, administrators and adult education staff.

"Because of the state's dire fiscal situation and shortfalls, which they have passed down to local districts, we are obligated to reduce our budget with drastic cuts that none of us wants to do," Superintendent Dennis Byas said. "But we are forced and our hands are tied."

Action to address the deficit is likely and will follow what neighboring school districts have done in the past week.

Castro Valley officials approved a plan to trim their district's budget by \$5 million, while San Leandro moved forward with \$3 million in cuts next year.

The much larger Hayward and Fremont school districts approved plans to make \$18 million and nearly \$33 million in cuts, respectively.

San Lorenzo reductions outlined in Byas' proposal are also similar to what a majority of school districts plan to do, including increasing class sizes, reducing the number of counselors on campus and negotiating furlough days.

Authorities also are forced to decide on possible job cuts in order to meet a March 15 state deadline for issuing layoff warnings. Final layoff notices must be sent by May 15.

Byas and his staff initially projected a \$4.3 million deficit at the beginning of the school year, but the figure increased by \$2.7 million in January after the governor's latest proposal.

Next year's reductions may reach up to \$10 million if the state's budget problems increase.

If that happens, officials would have to consider closing some schools, according to the budget plan.

San Lorenzo Unified currently operates with a \$94 million budget.

Tonight's meeting will start at 7:30 and will be held in the district office boardroom, 15510 Usher St.

For more information, call 510-317-4690 or visit [www.slzusd.org](http://www.slzusd.org).

**Kristofer Noceda covers Cal State East Bay, Chabot College, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and other unincorporated communities in the greater Hayward area. Contact him at 510-293-2479. Follow him at [Twitter](#). [com/Noceda\\_Reports](#).**

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if you're going **WHAT: San Lorenzo school board meeting, with trustees voting on proposed \$7 million in budget reductions.**  
**When: 7:30 p.m. today Where: District office boardroom, 15510 Usher St. details: Call 510-317-4690 or visit [www.slzsd.org](http://www.slzsd.org)**

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